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Socialists at Work. By ROBERT HUNTER. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1908. Pp. xiii, 374. \$1.50 net.)

This book is an attempt to set forth the character and extent of the socialist movement in Germany, Italy, France, Belgium and England. It is largely based upon the author's own observations, there being the slightest reference to other sources. book is interestingly illustrated with full-page pictures of prominent socialist leaders, and of socialist institutions, paintings and sculpture. The scope is shown by the chapter headings: The German social democracy; The Italian socialist party; The French socialist party; The British labor party; The Belgian labor party; Program of socialism; Socialism and social reform; Socialism in the parliaments; Socialism in art and literature; The international; and a supplementary chapter on The movement in other countries, written by the author's secretary. The author states his purpose to be "to picture the growing organism that already has its ramification throughout society in every civilized country," and to bring his readers "into intimate contact with the men, the organization, and the work of this powerful and significant movement." Fundamental principles are formally discussed only in the chapter on the program of socialism, but are touched upon in the description of the rise and growth of socialism in the different countries.

The author fails to give a definition of the term "socialism" as he uses it, and is therefore free to limit or broaden the term according to his convenience. At one time he treats it as an ideal to be attained only through "the natural evolutionary processes working out in society;" at another he treats it as "frankly revolutionary;" but generally he simply groups together under the term all the agencies of social reform. Socialism, the labor movement and social reform merge, under the author's treatment, into one. Socialism is made to sound very admirable by the simple method of crediting all things admirable to socialism.

In a book entitled Socialists at Work, readers have a right to expect that the work of socialists and not that of social reform will be described. It is disappointing that the book adds to the confusion which now exists as to the real meaning and extent of radical socialism. Movements for social betterment were begun

long before Marxian socialism became a political or philosophic force. England had her Shaftesbury before the great leaders of socialism began their work. The American labor legislation movement has been carried forward by others than those who are now termed socialists. Even the social reform program of Bismark in Germany was adopted when the Social Democratic party had only nine deputies and less than 400,000 votes. Something like this might be said with equal truth in regard to the movement in other countries. The author falls into the error which many enthusiastic propagandists make of supposing that all the progress that is seen is the result of his particular doctrines. Just as well may trade unionists, philanthropists, educators or preachers claim the sole credit for the visible betterment of human conditions.

Despite these defects the book has some claim to a passing interest. While outlining the social reforms now in progress in Europe, it serves also to bring the reader into intimate contact with the men of the socialistic movement. The author shows a wide acquaintance with the literature of socialism. He has given good pen pictures of the leaders both past and present, and has sympathetically described their work. His descriptions of the socialist and labor convention, though somewhat sketchy, and written in the style of newspaper reports, are interesting. But as a whole the book is marked rather by skill of rhetoric than by power of reasoning.

J. A. LAPP.

English Socialism of Today: Its Teachings and its Aims Examined. By H. O. Arnold-Foster, M.P. (New York: E. P. Dutton and Company, 1908. Pp. xix, 226. \$1.25 net.)

This popular answer to socialism originally appeared as articles contributed to the *Standard*. The book is an examination particularly of that kind of socialism which "is the most active and the most urgently demanding public attention," this being the socialism of the active propagandists. The author's ire is particularly directed against the doctrines of the "class war" and the "gospel of hate." It seems that a considerable correspondence followed his first assertions on this point, as the English socialist leaders